

NEW YORK CITY'S FARM FOR INEBRIATES AND DRUG ADDICTS

Redemption of Drunkards by Outdoor Work and Proper Surroundings the Purpose of Newly Formed Colony

DRUG addicts as well as inebriates will be treated at the farm colony which New York city has established in Warwick, Orange county. For the use of the colony, which is planned to maintain big tents and a large dining marquee, with kitchen attached, on a plateau overlooking the lake. These tents should accommodate 100 patients.

The city has appropriated \$9,000 for this tent colony. The establishment of which follows the opening of the new dormitories, for which \$7,000 was granted. Each dormitory has room for twenty-eight men, and in connection with the remodeled farmhouse will furnish accommodations for 100 patients.

With the completion of this new building the farm was ready for the reception of cases. The first man to be committed went to Warwick for a term of three years. At the farm he met a man who had preceded him; a case of voluntary commitment. The latter was charmed with what he had seen of life at the farm.

"I'm here for a year," he boasted to the newcomer.

"You've got nothin' on me," retorted the new man. "I'm up for three."

The new director assumed the administration of the farm in January. Work on the permanent buildings of concrete will be pushed forward so that they may be occupied in the autumn.

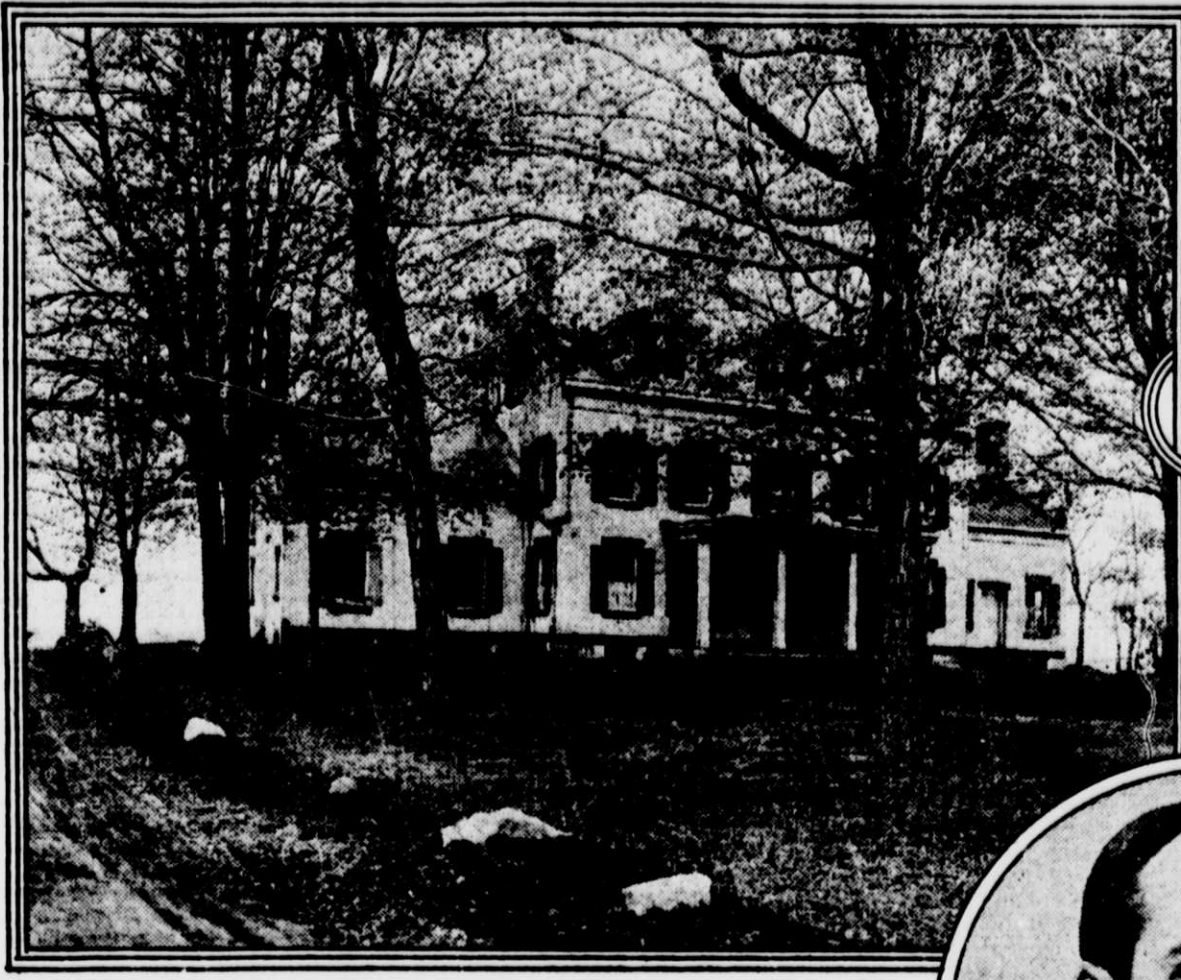
The farm has already made use of its brick making machine and concrete paths have taken the place of trails over the farm, while fine roads have been built by residents of the farmhouse.

The tent colony is three-quarters of a mile from the main buildings, as it is intended to separate drug addicts from alcoholic inebriates. Each of the new tents will hold ten men, who will dine in the big marquee.

"It is expected," said Charles Samson, executive head of the Board of Inebriety, "that the \$200,000 asked for the erection of permanent buildings will be granted readily, and that the work is actually under way and the success of the treatment of voluntary cases in the farmhouse demonstrated."

Practically all the work is out of doors, and this forms part of the treatment. By way of relaxation the inmates have been permitted to play musical organization that villagers have deserted local houses of amusement in order to attend concerts at the farm. So large is the outside attendance that Mr. Samson says they plan charging a small admission fee and devoting this fund to equipment.

The Board of Inebriety has inaugurated a work of scientific research in New York, which looks to the cure and redemption of men afflicted with alcoholic or drug inebriety.



Front of Manor Home Farm for Inebriates.

Temporary arrangements have been made with hospitals, looking to the treatment of such cases as may be accommodated, pending the erection of a carefully planned system of cottages, with a hospital and administration buildings. The farm is not yet equipped to take care of serious cases.

This opening of the farm colony before the completion of its first section, which is intended to hold 250 inmates, is due to the effect of the State's anti-drug law in crowding the hospitals with drug addicts for whom no proper provision can be made.

In his management of the farm, since its purchase in 1912, and in pushing forward the work of developing it preparatory to the inception of medical work, Mr. Samson has developed the agricultural possibilities of the place, turning over to the State institutions, cared for nearly thirty voluntary cases, under the medical direction of Dr. John Dornan, a member of the board and physician in chief to St. Francis' Hospital, New York and saved the State some \$24,447.

Mr. Samson is enthusiastic about the beauty of the farm site, which includes in its 500 acres a lake of 150 acres, surrounded by rich land.

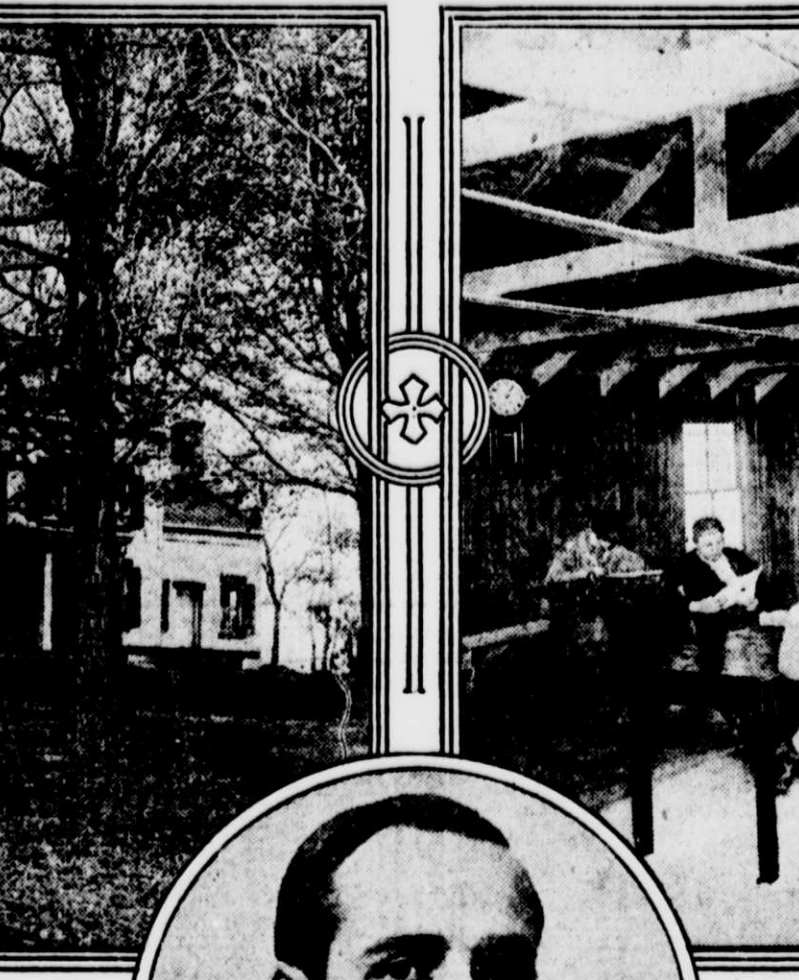
whereon it is intended to carry out intensive gardening. The idea is to allot each patient a small portion of ground in which he may exercise for his own benefit and that of the institution.

The colony is fifty-eight miles from New York, in the township of Warwick, and cost the city \$75,000. It happens that several small parcels of land encroach upon its boundaries, and the city plans to purchase these at some future time and incorporate them in the farm.

"Our total capacity," said Mr. Samson, "will be at least a thousand patients, but we will begin with 250 in the first section to be constructed."

"This thing of treating inebriates as sick men and not as they have hitherto been generally regarded is nothing new. As early as the second century of the Christian era Ulpian, the Roman jurist, declared that it was the duty of the state to provide places where drunkards could be housed and treated as sick, and that such persons were mentally affected and could be restored. That is what we plan to do."

The several groups of buildings will be located to the best advantage from an administrative standpoint, keeping in mind the peculiar purpose of each.



Lounging room for men in new shack.

The predominating group will be the hospital buildings. Here all patients will be received and accommodated in separate rooms to permit of classification and individual treatment. From the hospital patients will be assigned to cottages, the various groups of which will differ in size, construction and management, according to the needs and power of self-control of the inmates.

"Every requirement for individual treatment and for differentiation and segregation—essential factors in the treatment of inebriates—will be provided. The inmates will not be treated alike, but will receive individual attention according to their condition and requirements, and patients will be helped after their discharge."

A comprehensive and scientific study of the entire problem of public intoxication is planned, and it is expected that valuable results from research into the physiological, psychological and sociological aspects of alcoholism will be obtained. By the scientific analysis of the histories of the inmates it is hoped that it will be possible to institute practical study of the causes and conditions of drunkenness.

"Supplies required by the city government, such as school and hospital furnishings, will be manufactured, but care will be exercised to prevent conflict with present prison industries or labor unions. During the first few years the labor of the inmates will probably be limited to the erection of buildings and the development and improvement of the grounds."

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In 1913 New York demonstrated its attitude toward inebriety by authorizing the formal commitment of inebriates to private licensed institutions for the insane. In this act New York as well as Massachusetts adopted the views of medical men who have given years to the study and treatment of alcoholic and drug inebriety.

It is this work of study to be conducted in connection with a bureau of research that members of the board of inebriety believe will be of such value to humanity. Referring to Dr. John Dornan, who has worked out the plans for the building of the colony from the medical point of view, said Mr. Samson:

"I think we will go deeper into the causation of alcoholism than has been possible before and the same may be

said of drug addiction. I look for about 40 per cent. of cures among drug addicts if they can be kept long enough. You can't cure drug cases in a short time. The work is of the greatest importance and one cannot do too much to further it.

"There is no specific for alcoholism. Such cases can only be dealt with as individuals, studied and treated according to individual needs. The farm is not a place to straighten up drunken men. Such cases will still go to the hospitals. Our patients will be kept under observation for three or four years, or as their needs require, and incurable alcoholic cases will be dropped from the farm and left to the city and themselves."

"I feel that this farm plan is the right way to go about the problem of inebriety. It is the most rational line, and when we have our city department in operation we can accomplish some great results. That will be the most important branch of the work. It will do a lot for the inebriate, and its tendency will be to get him up on his feet again. I believe that the probation work in the city will have an inhibitory effect upon alcoholism. A good many may be treated successfully here without ever going to the farm."

"Another class of cases will be benefited by the cure of the addicts. The regulation of the illegitimate traffic in the drug is still more so, because preventive instead of restorative."

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ated by an open air life with sunlight, exercise and enough work to occupy him, not to mention recreation and amusement out of doors is desirable, and there is a splendid natural athletic field and amphitheatre on the grounds that is the very place for games.

"For a nervous inebriate an outdoor life is the thing, together with some useful occupation. Judgment must be used not to overdo the amount of occupation, but to regulate the work to the capacity of each man."

"Constructive work is a therapeutic measure, and efforts will be directed toward the building and equipping of the farm. After the start it should be self-sustaining, and there will be all classes of men to make it so."

"It is a question whether it would not be wise to take a man from his usual vocation and occupy his mind with something different. To take a bookkeeper and set him to keeping books, for instance, would be absurd."

"Our plan is to build a system of cottages and erect a segment of a hospital for the detention and classification of patients. After the cottages have been studied here, physically and mentally, and the course of treatment based there determined upon, they will be passed on to a dormitory cottage, where they will be still further under observation. It is planned to have from twelve to sixteen men in a cottage, each with a room for himself, which he will care for himself."

"We plan to have a central kitchen, but each cottage will have its separate dining room. At the same time we want every cottage to be an independent unit, so that should it happen to be snowed in, for instance, it could conduct its own housekeeping."

"Then it is proposed to have a recreation building, with a reading room and gymnasium. We want the men to have mental change and diversion. Now we have a doctor and a nurse to look after the patients, but to get our plans in real running order will, I believe, require about a year."

"The success of the farm depends on the leader. And as a leader is work of this character. I think that the American people, but not the American people, hold the key to the situation. He's a wonder. He knows how to handle men who need uplifting. Men like that they never cared for religion before, but they liked to go to his meetings, that he talks right from the heart. He's a great leader. We need in this work appeal to the religious ideals in a man."

"Another plan of ours is to have an open air school, separate from the others, where patients who have tuberculosis may be treated for that while receiving treatment for inebriety."

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"There is a result of the partial suppression of the business, however, which is by no means good for anybody except a few daring individuals who defy the law and take the risk. The price of the drugs has gone up enormously, and of course their profits as long as they are not caught have grown correspondingly."

"Heroin, for example, which used to be sold for \$1 an ounce, now brings as much as \$5 when it can be bought at all. And cocaine, formerly to be had for \$4 an ounce, has gone up to \$15 or \$20. I know of one place where a 'blow' of it, and a 'blow' is a very small quantity."

"Then there is the danger of the scrupulous